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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1 – 41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a packaging signal cassette flanked by a recombinase recognition sequence,

wherein said packaging signal cassette comprises a modified adenovirus packaging signal having [less than seven] two to six A elements[, each A element] having a consensus sequence of ATTTGN₈CG (SEQ ID NO:1), [and]

wherein N₈ of each A element is replaced by the N₈ sequence of a different A element, and

wherein the resulting A element is different from both the wild-type packaging signal A element and from each other.

43. (canceled)

44. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim [43] 42, wherein said modified adenovirus packaging signal contains from three to five A elements.

45. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *loxP*.

46. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *frt*.

47. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said wild-type packaging signal is human adenovirus serotype 5 packaging signal.

48. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein the modified packaging signal comprises at a maximum 23 bp of contiguous sequence homology relative to a wild-type packaging signal.

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49. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said modified adenovirus packaging signal further comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

50. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said modified packaging signal comprises an A element 21 bp after AII.

51. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is a plasmid.

52. (previously presented) The packaging signal cassette of claim 42 further comprising elements for use as an adenoviral helper virus vector.

53. (currently amended) The [helper virus vector] packaging signal cassette of claim 52, wherein said helper virus vector does not contain an E1 gene.

54. (previously presented) The helper virus vector of claim 53, wherein said helper virus vector comprises an E3 region with an insert of about 2.9 kb.

55. (previously presented) The helper virus vector of claim 54, wherein said insert does not contain a promoter sequence.

56. (previously presented) The helper virus vector of claim 55 wherein the E3 region has an insert of at least about 2.7 kb, provided that said insertion does not contain a promoter sequence.

57. (previously presented) The helper virus vector of claim 54 -56, wherein said insert is a human intron sequence.